

# CROSSVILLE CHRONICLE.

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CROSSVILLE CHRONICLE

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## CLIFTY TO THE FRONT

Farming Spirit Strong and Outlook for This Year Very Bright.

Charlie O'Neal, of DeKossett, is spending Sunday and Monday with homefolks.

Roy O'Neal spent Sunday at Pleasant Hill visiting among his old school friends.

Dr. J. R. Gott is up after rather a severe attack of lagrippe.

Mrs. Harris Hatcher, of Sparta, was in Clifty last week in the interest of the Sparta bakery, which she recently purchased.

Miss Myrtle Ashburn has a good school at Eastland, and will be enabled to spend her time with homefolks while attending to her duties. Eastland is a village about a mile west of Clifty.

Zollie W. Rackley has returned from Nashville where he has been attending the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. He represented the Clifty lodge of Masons. He reports a fine trip.

R. D. Holt left for Nashville Friday where he goes to see the great film play, "The Birth of a Nation" and to visit homefolks. He will return via Crossville and other points.

Dr. C. Q. Johnson, of Monterey, has been in Clifty several days and the howls of those who are so unfortunate as to be afflicted with teeth, make the weekling ring. He returned Sunday via Pleasant Hill.

Mrs. W. B. Young had the misfortune to fall and fracture her shoulder bone last week, but is reported to be greatly improved at present. Mrs. Young is greatly missed in the Sunday school and we all wish her a speedy recovery.

We are in the wake of the great grippe epidemic and have resumed the work of school, which is crowded to its utmost capacity on account of the fact that so many new families have moved in, due no doubt to the increase in business, for the mines are running full time, several of the entry men running double shifts—day and night.

Mrs. J. R. Gott entertained the little folks Friday afternoon in honor of her son, Master John Richard, Jr. Quite a lot of the little folks were present and enjoyed a good time playing games.

Roy E. Bell, of Crossville, was here last week on business, and while here was the guest of R. D. Holt at the Caney Fork Hotel.

Miss Effie Turner, who is teaching in the Bon Air school, spent the week-end with her mother.

Dr. W. B. Young is in Kentucky on business, and will return Monday or Tuesday of this week.

Mr. McCormick has installed a soda water fountain in the Company store, the presence of which makes us feel as if we were getting in line with the big cities.

Misses Virginia Moore and Mattie Reagan, who are attending High School at Sparta, visited home folks Saturday and Sunday.

Misses Willie Officer and Sarah Hudgins, our popular teachers, are back at work after a week or so of lagrippe.

Miss Moselle Reaves has received her piano and it is now installed in the music room at the school building. She has some twelve or fifteen enrolled in her class.

Quite a jolly crowd of young people met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lovejoy Saturday evening where they enjoyed music and conversation. Refreshments were served at a late hour, and everybody had a good time.

Dale King, of Ravenscroft, who has been helping Mr. Stone in the depot and post office, left Saturday for home on account of sickness.

Sanford Walker, of Albertville, Alabama, was here several days last week visiting his father, S. P. Walker. Sanford is an old Clifty boy and we are glad to know that he is making good in his new position with the N. C. & St. L. railway.

The company has a gang of men at work pulling stumps with the new stump-puller loaned our people by the railroad company. We have our hearts set on being a farming community second to none in the state, and every man and boy in Clifty has the farm spirit. We will clear up a lot of additional land this spring and with new and improved farm machinery, which is being furnished through the co-operation of the men and the company, and by applying expert advice from the agricultural departments of state and federal agents, we believe that we will be able to see our town on the agricultural map.

Mr. Converse, of the Department of Agriculture of the University of Tennessee, was a visitor in our town one day last week. While here he was shown over the plot selected for the railway demonstration farm and pronounced it ideal. He was also shown several of the herd of fine Hereford cattle recently purchased by Dr. Young and Professor Brandon, and spoke very highly of the step we are taking towards the betterment of the cattle we

are raising. He was very enthusiastic over the question of feeding silage, and gave us outlines for a very cheaply constructed silo. There is no doubt but what the spring will see the erection of some half dozen silos, among them being the community silo to be erected by those parties who do not have enough stock to justify the building of a silo but by combining can build a central plant a very little individual cost and with good results for all.

Another question that our people are interested in is that of sheep raising. We believe it to be the most profitable business the small farmer can engage in. For example, Jesse Lowe, a resident of Cumberland county, and a neighbor of ours, brought a sheep to Clifty which he sold out as mutton, realizing from the sale something like \$9.00. He told Dr. Young that the sheep had cost him not over 15c, that being for a little corn he had fed while the snow was on the ground. Of course it stands to reason that one could not make that much on every sheep raised, but it is true that more can be made, for the amount invested, than in any other kind of live stock. There is a move on foot among our people to organize a sheep growing association.

Before closing, your correspondent wishes to thank the good people of Cumberland for the gift, through the County Court, of the \$4,000.00 for building the road from Clifty to Crossville. We Clifty people appreciate this favor, especially as it will bring our good towns some hours closer together, and we can visit more and know each other better. Our own county court has awakened to the fact that the mountain was due some consideration and at a recent meeting appropriated some four or five thousand dollars for road purposes in the mountain district. This money added to the work our people are ready and willing to do, will go a long way towards making the mountain roads what we all can feel proud of, and will be a benediction to all peoples for generations to come. Jan. 31. Clifty Spirit.

## DON'T EFFECT THIS COUNTY

Injunction Proceedings in Fentress County of no Effect in This County.

Some controversy arose in Fentress county over the location of a portion of the Dixie Short Route north of Jamestown and an injunction was brought to restrain the majority of the commissioners from building the road via Forbus, which the enjoinders claim is not for the best interest of the county.

It was reported here that the injunction was sought to restrain the commissioners from running the road via Wartburg and Oakdale, thus leaving Cumberland county out, as the underwood connection at the Cumberland and Fentress county line could not be made and our road when built to the Fentress county line would have no connection that would enable travelers with autos to go on to Louisville and Cincinnati.

Money was raised in Crossville in a few minutes to send a man to Wartburg, where the injunction case was to be heard Saturday, but it was learned that our people had been misinformed and that no change to divert the road via Wartburg was contemplated. On that assurance no man was sent. It had been arranged that Judge J. W. Dorton should go as his ability as a lawyer amply qualified him for any duties along that line and the further fact that he is one of the commissioners who has in hand the spending of the \$200,000 for road building in this county further qualified him to speak with assurance as to conditions in this county.

## PACIFIC COAST FLOODS.

Disastrous floods have visited southern California especially. Fully one hundred persons have perished and the money loss runs far into the millions. The Colorado river has been out of banks and much damage has been done in the irrigated region of Imperial valley and other places. There has been much damage in Washington and Oregon also.

Heavy rains are causing much damage in Arkansas, lower Ohio valley and the Mississippi valley. Streams and rivers are bank full in Indiana also and damage is liable to result there in a large scale. The present cool snap may help some.

## IN INTEREST OF PREPAREDNESS.

President Wilson is making a tour of the middle west in the interest of his military preparedness plans. His first speech was at Pittsburg, Pa. He will go as far west as Topeka and will not return to Washington until February 4.

## HOW CAN WE RAISE THE NEEDED TAXES?

Some Difficulties in Sight That Seem to Leave Tax Equalization as the Only Right and Fair Solution of the Vexing Question.

The Highway Commissioners have sold the \$200,000 road bonds and they will be delivered within the next few days. This will necessitate the raising of \$10,000 annually to pay the interest on the bonds. The question now is the raising of this sum.

Since I have been connected with the County Court the county has been run on an economical basis as possible. The tax levy has been made as low as could be to get sufficient revenue to run the various departments of the county. But some people seem to think that additional expenses can be met with the same valuation and the same tax rate.

## OBLIGATIONS INCREASE.

The obligations of the county have been increasing at a rapid rate for the past ten years. Court house bonds to the amount of \$25,000 have been issued. A high school has been established which must be maintained. The public schools are now given a five, instead of a three months' term. Road bonds to the amount of \$40,000 have heretofore been issued, and now \$200,000 more road bonds have been issued.

## ONLY TWO REMEDIES.

These things all seem necessary but they can not be paid for at the same old rate of taxation and the same assessment. Then what is to be done? In my opinion there are only two things that can be done: Either raise the rate on the present valuation or raise the assessment and leave the rate at something like what it is now.

## RAISE VALUES, REDUCE RATE.

The question is often asked, "Why is the valuation not raised and the rate lowered?" This would seem to be the best thing to do for the county at first thought, but there are certain difficulties in the way which I believe is not understood by the majority of the taxpayers.

We now pay the state 35c on the \$100 valuation which in round numbers amounts to about \$5000. We receive in taxes from the railroads and telephone and telegraphs about \$10,000.

The valuation on these corporations is fixed by the state Railroad Commission. If we double our assessment we will pay the state \$10,000 instead of \$5,000.

If we lower our rate to one-half we will lose in taxes from the railroads and telegraphs and telephones \$5000; so we will have lost to the state and to these corporations \$10,000 and will have no more taxes than we would have had to leave the assessment and rate at what it has been in the past, and yet we have not got the \$10,000 additional taxes which we must have to meet the new issue of bonds.

## HOW SHALL FUNDS BE RAISED?

How shall we raise this sum? This is the question which must be met. I offer the suggestion that it can be raised by equalizing our assessment.

Some of our property is assessed at about what it is worth and some of it is assessed at five times less than what it is worth.

I have had occasion to go over the entire assessment with the special committee appointed by the county court within the past few days.

## AVERAGE LAND ASSESSMENT.

The general average of our acreage property is ridiculously low—so low that I hesitate to have it published. The average assessed valuation of acreage property for the entire county is \$2.64; this, too, includes all our farms with their houses, barns, and other improvements.

As a matter of fact we have but very few hundred acres that are not worth this amount and we have many thousands of acres that are worth from

\$10 to \$50 per acre and could not be bought for that amount.

I know of farms with more than five hundred acres with good houses, barns and other good improvements that are assessed at \$2.00 per acre. Again I know of lot property with only enough land on which to build a house and have a little garden that can not be rented for more than \$8 to \$10 per month, and it is assessed higher than the man with the five hundred acre tract.

## ASSESSMENT NOT EQUAL.

This is not right. It is not just. It is not equal. The man with the farm should be made to pay his proportion of the taxes.

Many of our little farms over the county are already assessed high enough. The burden should fall on the man who owns the property. He should not complain if his property is assessed at something near what it is worth.

So, if we had a readjustment of our assessment and all property equalized, we would have money enough to pay the additional sum called for at this time.

We have spent \$40,000 in road building. If we spend \$200,000 more our property will certainly be worth more. If it will not we had as well not spend it.

## PERSONAL PROPERTY.

Our assessed value of personal property is only given in at about \$70,000. Any one who knows the citizenship of the county knows that this does not approximate the real valuation of our taxable personal property. Many who own personal property subject to taxation fail to give it in to the assessor. They do not seem to know that they are violating the law and cheating their own county.

A man should be as careful and conscientious in answering the questions by the assessor touching his property under oath as he would be in court testifying, and when they do this we will have more than \$70,000 personal property turned in to be taxed.

## NO REFLECTIONS ON ANY ONE.

What I have said in this article is not to be construed as finding fault with, or laying the blame on, the past or present assessors. Our property has been assessed in about the same way for years and years. The fault is largely with the taxpayer himself. He puts one price on his property to the assessor and another when he goes to sell and they are widely different.

## BE HONEST WITH ASSESSOR.

When the assessor comes around this year let us all be honest with him and ourselves, and turn in our property subject to taxation at about what it is reasonably worth, and then leave it to him and the Board of Equalization and the county court to make our taxes as reasonable as they can and get revenue sufficient to run our county and keep up its good credit.

Very respectfully,

Geo. F. Burnett, County Judge.

## DON'T DO IT.

To those of this section who have been in the habit of buying frost proof cabbage plants each year we would say, be careful who you buy from. There is a concern that styles itself Atlantic Coast Plant Company, with headquarters at Youngs Island, S. C., and which also claims Clements, S. C., as an address point.

They have been owing the Chronicle Publishing Company a little bill of less than ten dollars for nearly a year. We sent them repeated bills and never could get even so much as a word in reply until we put a stinger in our request. Then they came back frothing at the mouth and said: "We intend to pay your account when we get to it." Nearly a year does not seem to be time enough for them to "get to it."

Any firm that will bent so small a bill as that is not worthy the confidence of any person. It would be well for our people to be slow about trusting that company with their money before seeing the goods for they may decide to send the plants "when they get to it." Be safe and send your money to some other firm.

## IN CARRANZA'S ARMY.

David S. Lansden, Son of Judge D. L. Lansden, Is in Mexican Army.

David S. Lansden of Cookeville, is a lieutenant in the army of General Carranza in Mexico, where he has been for several months. He is a son of Judge and Mrs. D. L. Lansden and is one of the most popular and capable young men of Cookeville. Although he is not yet of age, by his efficiency and splendid worth he has greatly endeared himself to General Carranza and his leaders.

He is an ardent admirer of Gen. Carranza and has implicit confidence in his patriotism and unselfish desire to uplift his stricken country and he believes that under his leadership and direction Mexico will soon be enjoying permanent peace and unprecedented industrial and educational development.

## Ozone

Mr. and Mrs. Hickey Smith were at Daysville Wednesday visiting Sade Hayes and sons.

Mrs. Arthur Byers has spent the past week at Crawford visiting relatives.

Mrs. W. S. Dyal and daughter Jennie were in Crab Orchard Thursday and Friday visiting Mrs. Sam Hutsell. T. G. Cox, Robert Clower and Arthur Isham went to Rockwood Saturday on business.

Mrs. Jim Grier, of Daysville was here Wednesday the guest of Mrs. W. S. Dyal.

Mrs. M. H. Rice, who has been very sick for the past two weeks with lagrippe and tonsillitis, is better.

John Reed, of Grassy Cove, was here Saturday on business.

Mrs. John Ashburn has been very sick the past few days with lagrippe.

Dr. Charley Wilson, of Rockwood, was here Friday to see John Frisby, who is in very poor health.

Mrs. Dock Scott returned from Nashville Tuesday, where she had spent the last week, called there by the serious illness of her daughter-in-law. Jan. 28. Dot.

## Hebbertsburg.

John Turner, of near Crossville, was in our neighborhood Monday and Tuesday on business.

Mrs. Melvin Mitchell is on the sick list at present.

F. L. Hamby made a business trip to Crab Orchard Saturday.

James Brown and Mr. Hill, of Crab Orchard, passed through here Tuesday on business.

Jack Davis made a business trip to Rockwood last week.

R. L. Hamby made a business trip to Crab Orchard Saturday.

T. E. Wilson, of Crab Orchard, was here on business Tuesday and Wednesday.

E. A. Farmer made a trip to Rockwood last week.

Sheriff Toney was in our neighborhood Monday on business.

Claten Smith, of Mount Airy City, was at H. S. Hamby's Wednesday.

Miss Lizzie Farmer and brother Charley visited their sister, Mrs. Carrie Sparlin, last week.

The little son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Hamby has been ill, but is better now. Jan. 28. Maybe.

## IT'S L. D. BRANDEIS

Last week President Wilson named Louis D. Brandeis, of Boston, to fill the vacancy caused by the recent death of Justice Lamar. The selection caused much surprise because the name of Mr. Brandeis had not been mentioned for the place. There is strong talk of opposition to the confirmation when it comes up in the senate.

Mr. Brandeis is now 60 years old and under the usual custom he would not likely hold long on account of the custom of retiring justices of the supreme court at the age of seventy.

There was much talk of W. H. Taft being named for the vacancy. He was strongly urged from some sections of the south. One of the strongest reasons for appointing a democrat is that six out of the eight now on the bench are republicans. Should Mr. Brandeis be elected, which is very probable as opposition to such selections is rare, he will be the first Jew to have held that honorable position.